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Liu et al.

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[54] **PROCESS FOR 6-O-ALKYLATION OF ERYTHROMYCIN DERIVATIVES**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **536/18.6**; 536/7.2; 536/7.3; 536/7.4; 536/18.5

[58] **Field of Search** 536/7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 536/18.5, 18.6

[56] **References Cited**

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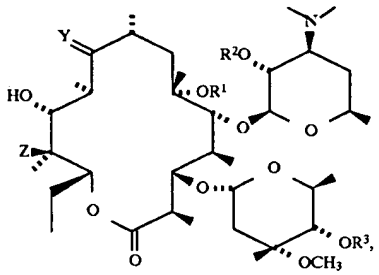
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A procedure for preparing 6-O-alkyl erythromycin compounds having the formula:



wherein R^1 is a loweralkyl group, R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group, except that R^2 and R^3 may not both be hydrogen simultaneously; Y is oxygen or a specifically substituted oxime; and Z is hydrogen, hydroxy or protected-hydroxy; by reaction of the compound wherein R^1 is hydrogen with an alkylating reagent, in the presence of a strong alkali metal base and also in the presence of a weak organic amine base, in a suitable stirred or agitated polar aprotic solvent, or a mixture of such polar aprotic solvents maintained at a reaction temperature and for a period of time sufficient to effect alkyation.

7 Claims, No Drawings